



SHAWSHEEN VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL  
100 Cook Street, Billerica, MA 01821  
School Council

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2023

**In Attendance:** Jessica Cook, Principal; John Bagni, Faculty; Kerry O'Brien, Faculty; Tanya Baron, Faculty; Melissa Bates, Parent; Kristen Baker, Parent; Dina Castiglia, Parent; Carole Reardon Parent; Michael Parent, Community Representative; Dale Gardner, Student; Alyssa Costantiello, Student; Diane Cedorchuk, Recording Secretary.

**Absent:** Brendan Driscoll, Community Representative

**Call to Order:**

Ms. Cook called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**Introductions:**

Ms. Cook asked everyone to introduce themselves for those members who were missing from the first meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Cook asked for a motion to accept the minutes of October 17, 2023. Mr. Bagni motioned to accept the minutes of October 17, 2023. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, motioned carried unanimously.

**Updates from the Principal:**

Ms. Cook gave an update on the following:

- School Improvement Plan Section 1-3, Mental Health Screener for the class of 2027
- ALICE Drill – there was an ALICE Drill on Thursday, and it went very well. Feedback was excellent.
- School Improvement Plan Section 3-2, Outreach to sending communities. Open House was held and over 1,000 people were in attendance.
- Bedford 8<sup>th</sup> graders came in to tour the shops.
- Burlington will also come in on December 15.
- The Road Show has gotten positive feedback, applications are up this year (350) to date.

Mr. Gardner gave the following student updates:

- Quarter 1 just ended, and freshmen are in exploratory 5.
- Shawsheen Road Show has visited our 5 towns.
- Fall sports is wrapping up with about 300 fall athletes this year. Football teams are undefeated heading into playoffs.
- Dram Club is performing 12 Angry Men
- Turkey Bowl will be held on November 15
- Renovations in HVAC and Masonry and new equipment and tools
- Winter sports and clubs will be starting up.
- Trunk or Treat raised about \$1300 for Suicide Prevention

- Orientation Leaders participated in the Walk for Hope to raise money and awareness for Suicide Awareness and prevention.
- Skills USA is hosting Toys for Tots donation.
- Fall Fair is November 18 with proceeds going to the Jimmy Fund
- Shawsheen's Orientation Program is participating in the Billerica Tree Festival

### **Old Business:**

Student Dress Code. There was a lengthy discussion on student dress code. Mr. Gardner presented dress code policies from other schools for review.

Ms. Cook distributed the page from Shawsheen's handbook 5-18 Dress Code with potential options to replace the bullet in question.

Motion made by Mr. Bagni to amend the dress code to option 1: *Clothing should be in good taste, and a reflection of the student's career goals. No under garment may be visible and, due to health and safety concerns in shops, classrooms, and on job sites, the torso (from the base of the neck to the top of the hips) must be fully covered at all times.* and to include the photo from Essex Tech. Ms. Bates seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, motion passes with a 5-4 vote. Ms. Cook told the group she would present both sides of the dress code discussion to the School Committee for their review.

### **New Business:**

Student Attendance Policy. Ms. Cook spoke about Shawsheen's attendance policy and would like to change the unexcused absences section pages 19-21 in the student handbook. Ms. Cook noted the policy is outdated.

School Council Meeting Times. Motion made by Mr. Gardner to have the school council meeting start at 2:15pm and end at 3:15pm. Ms. Costantiello seconded the motion. With a roll call vote. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

### **Future Agenda Items:**

Schoology, a better understanding for parents to help their students.  
Student attendance policy

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### **Adjournment:**

Mr. Bagni motioned to adjourn. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26pm.